Act, 1956) for adjudication in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. Ravi & Bias Waters Tribunal has submitted its fact finding report on 30.1.1987. Partly States and Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under Section 5(3) of ISWD Act, 1956. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991.

There is no time frame given to the Tribunals to settle the disputes.

Rise in the Mercury Level in Ground Water

1366. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the survey conducted by the Centre for Science and Environmental of certain States revealing alarming rise in the mercury levels in the ground water due to poisonous industrial effluent directly released into the ground causing serious health hazard's and the likely severe water crisis in the country in the near future;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the revelations made in the Survey; and

(c) if so, what strategy is contemplated by Government to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Measures taken by the Government to mitigate the problem of ground water pollution are as follows:—

(i) The Central Government has set up Central Ground Water Authority to regulate and control ground water management and development.

(ii) Mass awareness and education programme have been launched on the significance of water economy, efficient utilisation, health, hygiene and sanitation.

(iii) Central Pollution Control Board has adopted several measures like directing the industries through State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluent within the stipulated standards, setting up of network of ambient water quality monitoring stations, initiation of scheme to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and taking up of quality scheme of monitoring in critically polluted areas.

Losses in Bihar due to Floods

†1367. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that thousand of people died every year due to floods in Bihar and thousand of acres of crops are desroyed;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any concrete steps to solve this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Flood management is a State subject and schemes are planned and executed by the States as per their priorities out of their own plan funds allocated by the Planning Commission. Central government, as per existing procedure, provides technical advice and conducts appraisal of schemes when referred by the States for their clearance.

---

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.